

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 /075 W
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R 220953Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6784

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11714

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, RP

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF MARCOS VISIT TO MOSCOW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. MANILA 10333 (NOTAL)

B. MOSCOW 11933

1. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AT PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 21,
AS TO WHEN PRESIDENT GOING TO MOSCOW, PRESIDENT SAID HE
HAD HOPED TO LEAVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE SAID,
THERE HAD BEEN COMPLICATIONS IN GETTING THE THREE LEADERS
(PRESUMABLY PODGORNYY, KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV) TOGETHER IN
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MOSCOW AT THE SAME TIME. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE COULD

NOT NOW TELL WHEN HE WOULD VISIT MOSCOW.

2. MARCOS EXPLANATION SEEMS SOMEWHAT INGENUOUS. AS DEPT WILL RECALL, PRESIDENT HAD EARLIER TOLD ME (REF A) THAT PROBLEM OBSTRUCTING VISIT WAS FAILURE OF NEGOTIATORS TO BE ABLE RESOLVE QUESTION OF SIZE OF SOVIET MISSION TO BE STATIONED IN MANILA. THIS, ALSO, IS TRANSPARENTLY INADEQUATE EXPLANATION.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO MY CONVERSATION WITH MARCOS, FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS DIFFICULTY ARRANGING WITH WHOM MARCOS WOULD MEET IN MOSCOW VISIT. HE SAID IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSEMBLE ALL THREE TOP SOVIET LEADERS DURING AUGUST AND GOP HAD THEREFORE ADVISED SOVIETS THAT MARCOS WOULD SETTLE FOR BREZHNEV ALONE. THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF POSTPONEMENT SEEMS TO REFLECT INDICATION THAT SOVIETS DECLINED MAKE BREZHNEV AVAILABLE.

4. I HAVE NOT PRESSED MARCOS FOR PRECISION ON THIS ISSUE, SINCE HE IS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY SITUATION AND WAS DELIBERATELY VAGUE WHEN SENATOR MANSFIELD SOUGHT INFORMATION. HOWEVER, MY CONJECTURE ON REASONS FOR ABORTION OF VISIT CONFIRMS PRECISELY TO EXPLANATION OFFERED BY FRENCH CHARGE (REF B). IT MAY BE LESS THAN COINCIDENTAL THAT FRENCH RATIONALE IS EXACTLY THAT WHICH I GAVE FRENCH AMBASSADOR MANILA WHEN HE ASKED MY VIEWS A FEW DAYS AGO.

5. AS FOR GERMAN SPECULATION THAT CHINESE HAD PRESSED FOR POSTPONEMENT, I WOULD SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT. AS FAR AS I KNOW, CHINESE DON'T BEHAVE THIS WAY. ON OTHER HAND, CHINESE WILL DOUBTLESS WELCOME THIS APPARENT "TILT" IN PHILIPPINE RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST WORLD AND MARCOS PROBABLY HAS NO RPT NOT QUALMS ABOUT LETTING THE "TILT" REMAIN AT THIS ANGLE FOR SOME TIME, AS LONG AS REASON FOR DELAY RESTS SQUARELY ON SOVIET SHOULDERS.

6. LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS FOR CONTINUED FREEZE IN GOP-USSR RELATIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO FATHOM AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY TO MEAN THAT WE WILL NOT SEE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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EAST EUROPEAN MISSIONS IN MANILA WITH EXCEPTION OF ROMANIANS UNTIL USSR RELATIONS RESOLVED, AND IT MAY ALSO EXPLAIN IN SOME MEASURE DIFFICULTIES WHICH IMELDA MARCOS HAS OBVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED IN GETTING TO HAVANA. SULLIVAN

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